



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
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Office of the Director

April 17, 1979

RP:0010

Colonel Peter D. Stearns  
Corps of Engineers,  
Honolulu District  
Department of the Army  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Stearns:

## Special Public Notice Section 404 - Jurisdiction over Certain Streams in the State of Hawaii

The Environmental Center has solicited the assistance of Robert Kinzie, Zoology Department, and Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center, in the review of the above cited document.

This public notice delineates the headwaters of perennial streams in the State of Hawaii above which certain discharges of dredged or fill material may be permitted under a nationwide Corps permit. The location of the "headwaters" is defined in the glossary as "The point on non-tidal stream above which the average annual flow is less than five cubic feet per second." From the list of streams provided and considering those not so listed (those with flows less than 5 cfs) and the location of their headwaters as defined in the glossary, it would appear that the flow standard used is not applicable to Hawaiian stream systems. We recognize that under mainland conditions the 5 cfs limitation may be appropriate, however, in Hawaii many biologically significant stream ecosystems are maintained with flows of 5 cfs or less. Since so many of the large Hawaiian streams have been greatly altered for flood control or dewaterment, the smaller streams that remain take on proportionally greater significance. It is in these smaller streams that the best examples of Hawaiian stream communities may be found. The 5 cfs flow limit places the defined "headwaters" of even the larger streams unrealistically close to their mouths.

Because of the particular geological, hydrological, and biological conditions in Hawaii we would urge that an assessment of the potential environmental consequences be made prior to the discharge of dredged or fill material above the headwaters of the listed perennial streams in Hawaii.

Colonel Peter D. Stearns

- 2 -

April 16, 1979

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doak C. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doak" being more prominent.

Doak C. Cox  
Director

DCC/ck

cc: Robert Kinzie  
Jacquelin Miller